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Mr. SPEAKER :—" This will depend on the number of questions for which answers are received from the Government."

Sri P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Then, may I take it, Sir, that the answers have not yet been received?"

Mr. SPEAKER :—" Yes."

Sri P. RAMAMURTHI :—" That would mean—I do not want to be taken to be harsh—that the Government are thereby sabotaging the rights of this House. When one hour has been provided for putting questions for eliciting information on many administrative problems, certainly the Government must be able to get answers to all the questions that have been addressed to them. They must tighten up their machinery and see to it that the answers are received in time so that the full one hour for putting questions may be utilised by this House."

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, I think the hon. Member was not right in his allegation about the Government's sabotaging the right, the democratic right of putting questions. We are working and, I know it from my own personal knowledge and fatigue in that connection, we are working extraordinarily hard at the questions. In fact, I have come to feel that most of our Secretariat staff are employed in merely collecting information instead of doing any work, on account of these questions. All the same, we are doing all we can. But one thing must be remembered. This time the Assembly has met after prorogation and, according to the rules, only new questions received can be dealt with. When the questions are received, there will be no delay in answering them."

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

*Separation of the Judiciary from the Executive.*

1 *Q.*—Sri K. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the Committee appointed to review the working of the Scheme of Separation of the Judiciary from the Executive submitted its report to the Government; when the said report was printed; and when a copy of the report was furnished to a section of the Press in Madras; and

(*b*) what are the recommendations of the Committee and what is the action taken on the recommendations of the Committee?

*A.*—(*a*) The Committee submitted its report on the 13th November 1952. Government decided to make the report available to the public as a priced publication and ordered the printing of the necessary number of copies. The printed copies were received on the 19th January 1953 and a certain number of copies was distributed free to the Press on the 29th January 1953

through the Director of Information and Publicity. No section of the Press was furnished with a copy of the report before that date by Government.

(b) Copies of the report are placed on the table of the House for information [a]. The report is undergoing detailed examination.

*Fair price shops.*

2 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the places where fair price shops have been abolished after decontrol of foodgrains;

(b) the places where fair price shops are being maintained now;

(c) the number of fair price shops in the State before decontrol and now in existence;

(d) the quantity of rice and other foodgrains distributed as ration in different places through fair price shops; and

(e) what steps the Government have taken to check the abnormal rise in the price of foodgrains?

*A.*—(a) & (b) Fair price shops have been closed in the districts of Srikakulam and Krishna and in the surplus taluks of East and West Godavari districts as there was practically no offtake of foodgrains. Fair price shops are being maintained in all other derationed areas. The ration shops in the informally rationed districts of Malabar, the Nilgiris and the Hosdrug sub-taluk of South Kanara are also being continued.

(c) & (d) A statement [b] furnishing the information is placed on the table of the House.

(e) The Government are watching the price trends in the several districts carefully and they do not consider that the increase in the prices of foodgrains at present compared with the Government controlled rates can be termed 'abnormal'. However, the following steps taken by the Government are intended to check rise in prices and to make foodgrains available at controlled prices to the needy section of the population :—

(1) Though procurement has been given up in the Malabar, Nilgiris and South Kanara districts, informal rationing is being continued in the first two districts and in the Hosdrug sub-taluk of South Kanara and the same scale of ration as before decontrol, viz., 6 or 7 oz. of rice and the balance to make up 12 oz. in the shape of wheat and/or milo is being issued to all cardholders through ration shops.

[a] Placed separately on the table of the Assembly—Not printed as an Appendix.

[b] Printed as Appendix on page 357 infra.

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(2) In the towns which were statutorily rationed previously, fair price shops have been authorized to issue 4 oz. of rice and 6 oz. of other grains to all cardholders irrespective of their dietary habits with a view to prevent these towns with a greater purchasing capacity mopping up all surpluses in the rural areas.

(3) In the other areas, fair price shops continue to function wherever there is need for them and other foodgrains like milo and/or wheat are being supplied at low prices at the rate of 10 oz. per adult per day.

(4) Sufficient quantities of foodgrains are distributed by the Government to all ration and fair price shops to meet the needs of the consumers.

(5) Powers have been given to Collectors to requisition stocks of foodgrains whenever there is cornering. Dealers are licensed under the Central Government's Licensing and Procurement Order and they have to submit return of stocks to the licensing authorities. Whenever there is cornering of stocks, Collectors have been empowered to requisition them for distribution through ration or fair price shops.

*Total number of employees in the State Transport department.*

3 *Q.*—SRI A. RATHINAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of employees such as officers, clerks, conductors, drivers, cleaners and peons in the State Transport department; and

(*b*) the number of employees in the above categories belonging to the Harijan community?

*A.*—(*a*) & (*b*) Information required is furnished below :—

| Category. | Total number in each category. | Number belonging to the Harijan community. |
|---|---|---|
| (1) | (2) | (3) |
| Officers .. .. .. .. | 12 | -- |
| Clerks (Lower Division and Upper Division) .. .. .. .. | 96 | 1 |
| Conductors .. .. .. .. | 736 | 21 |
| Drivers .. .. .. | 774 | 21 |
| Cleaners (including stand cleaners) .. .. .. .. | 243 | 38 |
| Peons .. .. .. | 37 | 3 |
| Other employees .. .. .. | 1,123 | 92 |
| | 3,021 | 176 |

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*Cattle and sheep mortality in Cuddapah district.*

4 *Q.*—SRI N. SIVARAMI REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the cattle and sheep mortality talukwar in Cuddapah district as a result of the cyclone in May 1952;

(*b*) the extent of loss calculated in money; and

(*c*) the relief afforded by the Government to the shepherds and others to rehabilitate themselves?

*A.*—(*a*) *to* (*c*) The answer is furnished below :—

***Statement showing the loss of cattle and sheep in Cuddapah district due to the floods in the month of May 1952, the pecuniary loss sustained and the relief afforded.***

| *Serial number and name of the taluk.* (1) | *Loss of cattle numbers.* (2) | *Total value.* (3) | *Relief.* (4) | *Sheep.* (5) | *Total value.* (6) | *Relief.* (7) | *Remarks.* (8) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | RS. | | | RS. | | |
| 1 Proddatur .. .. | 969 | 48,450 | Nil. | Nil. | .. | .. | |
| 2 Rajampet .. .. | 4,707 | 2,35,350 | ,, | 7,722 | 77,220 | .. | The mortality is due to heavy gale and rain. Out of this 435 sheep valued at Rs. 4,350 and 21 cattle valued at Rs. 1,320 were washed away due to floods. The rest died due to cyclone's effect. |
| 3 Jammalamadugu .. | 176 | 15,770 | ,, | 6,785 | 67,850 | .. | |
| 4 Pulivendla .. .. | 163 | 15,000 | ,, | 4,000 | 35,000 | .. | |
| 5 Kamalapuram .. | .. | .. | ,, | 100 | 1,000 | .. | |
| 6 Badvel .. .. | .. | .. | ,, | 14,837 | 1,48,370 | .. | |
| 7 Sidhout .. .. | 2,337 | 1,17,745 | ,, | 14,199 | 1,62,905 | .. | |
| 8 Cuddapah .. .. | 2,340 | 23,400 | ,, | 5,000 | 50,000 | .. | |
| 9 Rayachoti .. .. | 2,000 | 28,500 | ,, | .. | .. | .. | |
| Total .. | 12,692 | 4,84,215 | .. | 52,643 | 5,42,345 | .. | |

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

## II.—GOVERNMENT MOTIONS.

### (1) ELECTION OF FIFTEEN MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES.

8-50 a.m. THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move—

'*That with reference to Rule 156 of the Madras Assembly Rules, this Assembly do proceed on a date to be fixed by*